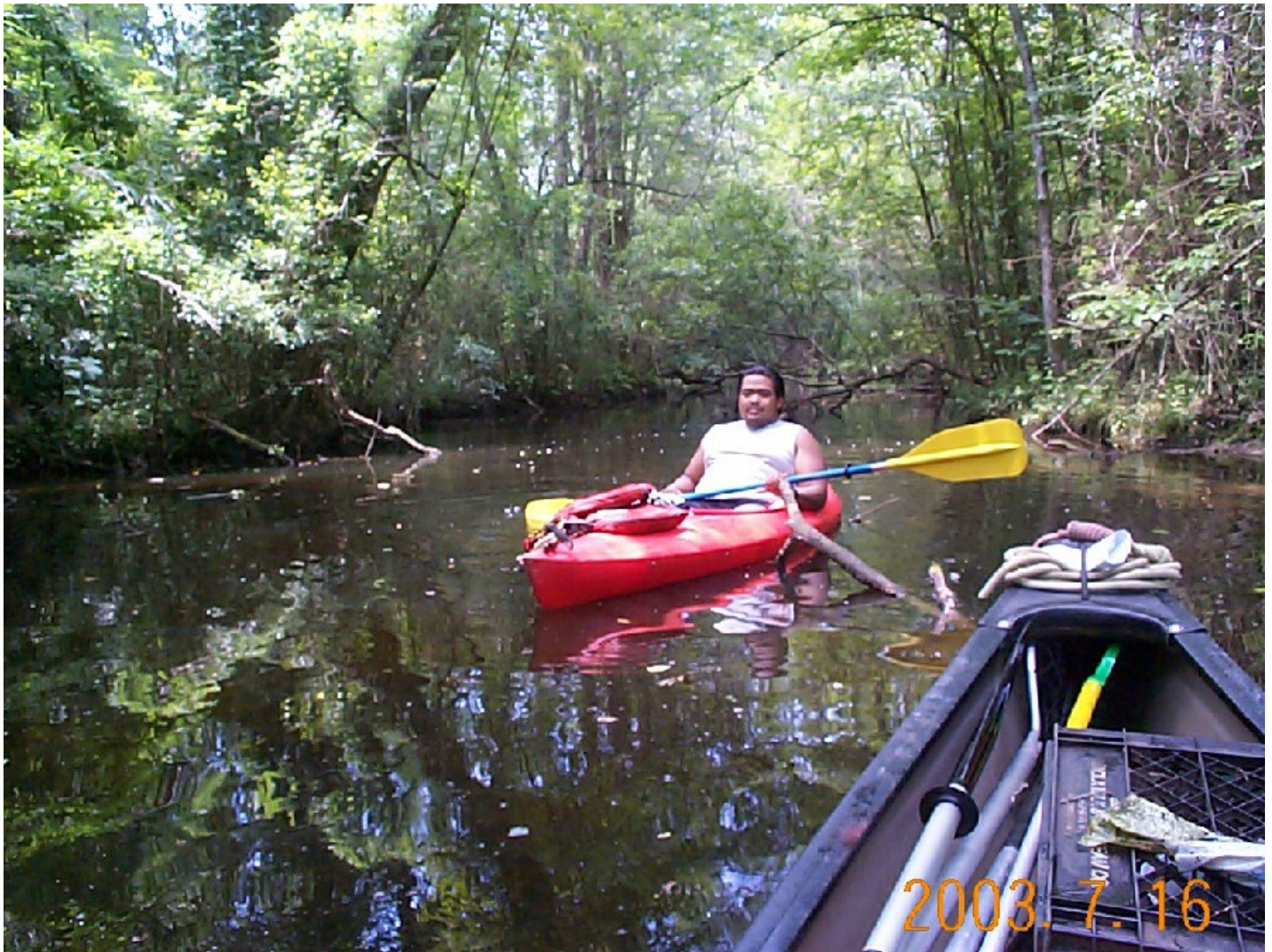


# Stewards of the White Oak River Basin

2003-007-16 NORTHEAST CREEK

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Joanne Somerday, Richard Rivera, New River Keeper and Elmer Eddy met at Northeast Creek Park and launched our boats at 9:00 AM. It was as beautiful



summer day with light wind. Picture is of Richard up Motts Creek.

We hugged the shore line right side downstream toward the route 24 bridge. Lovely wild morning glories stood out against the green foliage of red cypress and marsh grasses and bushes. We explored two small side creeks before the bridge. The second creek seemed to be a dredged channel ending up at two homes. Apparently it was used as boat cargo landing area at one time. These creeks were occupied by shore birds, anhingas; marshes hens, herons, and song birds and swallows. The swallows congregated around a dense mass of dead red cypress trees on a point going into the second creek. The whole trees were bleached almost white and their roots and all make a grotesque sight. The swallows were either nesting in them or feeding on flying

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insects.

By the time we got to the 24 bridge Joanne was feeling woozy and decided she had better return. She is ok now and got home to Kinston safely. We unloaded her trash into my canoe and Richard and I continued down a short way past the bridge. Now Richard had to unload into my canoe. This was a bit much and we realized we could not carry anymore trash.

We returned to the bridge and carried five trash bags up to the road and placed them over the guard rail on the west side of the east bound lane. We were now free to continue on. We decided to cross the river at the bridge and paddle up the other side. Much to our dismay we encountered a veritable dump, mostly beer cans and bottles, many broken glass bottles. We filled up two more bags right here.

We progressed up the river on the east side picking up light trash here and there. We turned up Motts Creek. It was lined with tall marsh grass and some islands and as it narrowed we were canoeing under overhanging branches. It was a very pretty creek. It branched into two and both branches soon became blocked for further canoeing upstream. We were in a wilderness area. Very pretty and except for the traffic noise of Route 24, you could believe you were in a wilderness. Ospreys circled over head here. There were many other birds too.

The wind had come up and when we returned to Northeast Creek we were practically blown back to the ramp. We put the remaining trash in the containers at the ramp. We arrived at the ramp at 3:00. Crossing the bridge on the way home, I was surprised to see the bags had already been picked up! We saw prisoners picking up trash along 24 as we drove in in the morning and presume they also picked up ours.

Marie: No need for you to request any trash pick up this time. Elmer

Next trip plans, Wednesday next. Put in at Montford Point Ramp in Camp Johnson and paddle down the New River and up Northeast Creek to where Richard and I left off this week. Am asking Dale Weston to plan this trip. Hope he can find another access point around Scales Creek so we can set up a shuttle and not have to paddle back. More later.

We will never get the New River cleaned up in a year this way. We are launching a new anti-litter campaign right away. You will be reading all about it in the Jacksonville Daily News any day now. They are giving us a full page to promote this campaign and make it a success.

We are asking everyone to help us fight litter. We are trashing our

# Stewards of the White Oak River Basin

beautiful Country. We must stop it. Please help us to make it a success. We are cooperating with Big Sweep and NCDOT and all other organizations fighting litter. Our goal is to have less litter every year until there is none. If no one litters, there will be no litter. Our goal is to reach everyone who is littering. Most are doing it unknowingly, or unconsciously, not realizing the disastrous results of their actions multiplied by millions. It is these millions we must reach. We can do it here in our own White Oak River Basin. Let's just "DO IT"--DON'T LITTER!

For those who may be intentionally littering, we suggest you stop too. Heavy fines can make you wish you did. Don't let it happen to you.

Keep your eye on The Jacksonville Daily News and make it happen here -- a clean White Oak River Basin by September 20th, Big Sweep Day.

Elmer, The White Oak River Trashman  
Stewards of the White Oak River Basin

Please visit: [www.whiteoakstewards.org](http://www.whiteoakstewards.org)